

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /011 R

66624

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O: RFICHTE

APPROVED BY:S/S-O: SFRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 191325

EXDIS TOSEC 63

FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR SEP 25,
1973 FROM TEHRAN REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6816

EXDIS

PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS IR

SUBJ: PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF F14/15 AIRCRAFT

SUMMARY: CONCERNED TO PLAN NOW FOR HIS FUTURE AIR DEFENSES,
SHAH HAS REQUESTED FIRM COMMITMENT IN WRITING THAT USG WILL
SUPPLY IRAN WITH F14/15 AIRCRAFT. ACTION REQUESTED: LANGUAGE
WITH WHICH WE MAY REPLY TO SHAH'S REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING AUDIENCE AUGUST 28 SHAH ASKED AMBASSADOR TO OBTAIN
INFO ON PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF F14/15 AIRCRAFT. CHIEF,
ARMISH/MAAG, SOLICITED THIS INFORMATION THROUGH TECHNICAL
CHANNELS AND RECEIVED REPLY ON 18 SEPTEMBER. IN SUBSTANCE,
REPLY STATED THAT REASONABLY ACCURATE P AND A INFO WOULD BE
SECRET

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AVAILABLE FOR F14 IN EARLY 1974 AND FOR F15 IN 1975. REPLY
INDICATED THAT DEFINITE INFORMATION WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE
UNTIL PROCUREMENT HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. WHEN
CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION WAS ESTABLISHED, DOD COULD PREPARE
P AND A DATA. THIS INFORMATION WAS COMMUNICATED TO GEN.

KHATAMI, COMMANDER IIAF, BY CHIEF, ARMISH/MAAG, AND CONVEYED BY KHATAMI TO SHAH.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 24, KHATAMI GAVE ARMISH/MAAG SHAH'S RESPONSE. WHILE SHAH UNDERSTOOD CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN ARMISH/MAAG LETTER, HE FELT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT F14/15 PURCHASE BE QTE NAILED DOWN UNQTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IRAN MUST HAVE FIRM COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF THESE AIRCRAFT, SHAH EMPHASIZED. ASSERTING THAT MIG 23 AND OTHER ADVANCED MODEL AIRCRAFT WERE BEING PROVIDED TO COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING IRAN, SHAH FEARED IRAN QTE COULD BE LEFT HOLDING THE BAG. I WILL NOT PERMIT THIS TO HAPPEN UNQTE. SHAH SAID RUSSIANS HAD OFFERED SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND WOULD BE EAGER TO REPLACE WESTERN EQUIPMENT AND INFLUENCE.

3. SHAH STATED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH MIGHT FORCE USG TO ALTER ITS VERBAL AGREEMENT TO SELL F14S AND F15S. A SIGNED AGREEMENT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO PLAN ON A FIRMER BASIS. ACCORDINGLY, SHAH REQUESTED COMMITMENT IN FORM OF A SIGNED STATEMENT AUTHORIZED BY USG ON AVAILABILITY OF F14 AND F15 AIRCRAFT. IF THE PRICE OF THESE AIRCRAFT COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED NOW, STATEMENT ON AVAILABILITY COULD INCLUDE LANGUAGE TO EFFECT THAT PRICE FOR IRAN WOULD NOT EXCEED PRICE TO BE CHARGED TO USG. IRAN WOULD PAY SAME PRICE FOR HARDWARE AS USG.

4. WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR STATE AND DEFENSE TO PROVIDE US WITH TEXT OF STATEMENT MEETING SHAH'S CONCERNS. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE EQUALLY DEFINITE COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF BOTH AIRCRAFT AT THIS STAGE, SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO TREATING THE TWO AIRCRAFT SEPARATELY ON THIS POINT. HOWEVER, AS SHAH'S REQUEST TREATED AIRCRAFT ON SAME BASIS, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR REPLY TO DEAL WITH TWO AIRCRAFT IN AS NEARLY SIMILAR TERMS AS POSSIBLE. HELMS UNQUOTE RUSH
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SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
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